

A.R.C. • P.O. Box 72832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • (907) 452-6461 • akcoins@mosquitonet.com

VOLUME XXIV, No. 3.

MARCH, 2002.

RUBY & LONG, ALASKA

from the book "John Honea - Ruby" produced by the Yukon-Koyukuk School District 1981
ISBN 0-88839-073-4

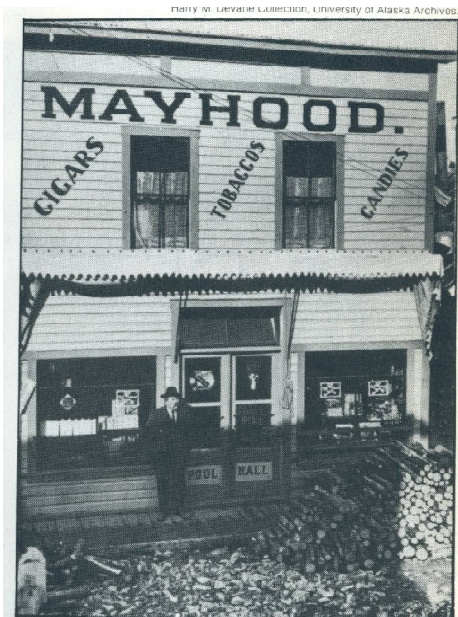
Hancock House Publishers, Blaine, WA

Photos courtesy Archives and Manuscripts, Alaska and Polar Regions Dept., University of Alaska Fairbanks

After reindeer herding I went back to Ruby. It was quite a big place. Kokrines people would visit Ruby quite a bit. It was the closest town to Kokrines with a lot of people and ways to make a living. There were about 5,000 people around Ruby. Mostly White people in 1912. That's counting all those mining places around here like Long Creek, Poorman, Tamarac, Spruce Creek and McCatchum.

I can still remember when Long Creek was a real big place. There was several roadhouses, you know, what they call hotels now, big places for people to stay and rent a room. And then there was two or three saloons where people could get together and drink. And a lot of people. Gosh, I don't know how many.

There were quite a few people that I used to visit at Long Creek on account of their kids. That was 1918, I must have been seven years old. The Mayhoods I remember and the Taxin family and then a couple of twin brothers. White people, young people.



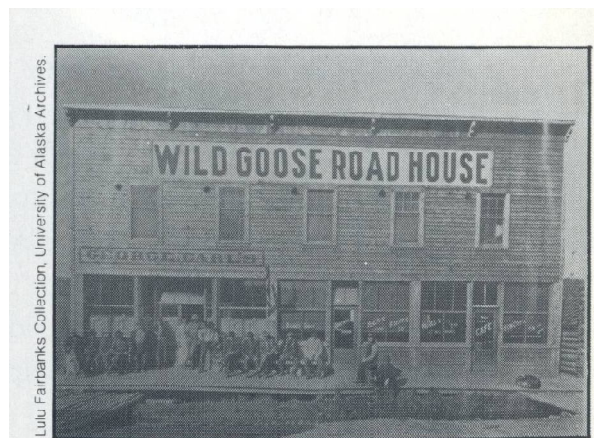
Mayhood's store and pool hall, Ruby, 1913. Photo by Clemons.

They left here after mining camp in the fall all closed up. Lots of miners going Outside for the winter. They got on a boat out there called the *Sophia*, a Canadian boat. That's the boat that sunk and not a survivor. Not one. That was 1918. (*editor's note*: the Mayhoods were on the Princess Sophia, see ATC&PN, March, 2000).

That same year lot of people died from the flu. Especially Native people. There was a lot of them died at Kokrines and down river. Not in Ruby though. Then in April 1931, the flu was in Ruby, where four or five people died. I had the flu three or four days myself.

Anyway, of all those mining places, Ruby is the only place left with lots of people, but its changed. Mostly native people now.

(*editor's note*: Mayhood tokens are Fairbanks B-34a and Ruby B-3a. Wild Goose Bar is Long B-1a)



The cash economy brought into Alaska with the miners included a different way of life. Photo by Clemons. People unidentified.

EDITORIAL

I cannot recall a time in the last 24 years when I have been this far ahead with the newsletter. It is only the first of February, and this issue is nearly ready! I have articles for the next three issues, which really is amazing.

Next month we have scheduled an article by Lee Poleske of Seward about Henton's Russian River Lodge. Does anyone have a photo of the lodge?? That would be a nice addition to the article.

The only question is which one comes next! In the following months we will have articles about a token from Oscarville (sorry, not a new discovery), an excerpt from another Hancock House publication with information on Dominic Verneti and information on the unique 1965 Fairbanks Coin Club "First Annual Coin Convention" gold medal.

This does not mean that we no longer need articles. Your editor is working on a couple of other articles from the other end of the earth. Your articles will help balance out things and keep the focus mostly on Alaska and Yukon.

One area that we have been having a hard time with is space fillers. Short pieces are always welcome. These can be clippings or just small tidbits of information about token issuers. Items are always needed "For the Record." Keep these things coming in!

This issue is going in the mail early, as will the next issue. The auction date is set for April 6, so the April issue will go in the mail in mid-March, and include the Alaska lots from the auction.

Editor - Dick Hanscom
Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth
Anchorage Correspondent - vacant
Canadian Correspondent - Jerry Remick
Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb
Scandinavian Correspondent - Jorgen Somod

Subscription Rates: (all first class or airmail)
United States - \$15 per year
Canada - \$18 per year
Elsewhere - \$35 per year

Collector's Advertising Rates:
1 page - \$15 1/2 page - \$8 1/4 page - \$5
1/8 page (business card size) - \$15 for 5 issues
Classified ads: 20 cents per line.
Commercial advertisers: write for rates

C.E. DEL BAKER



A red vulcanite 10 Centavos token has been reported from Compañia Explotadora del Baker. It is 26mm. This and the 5 Centavo are relatively low values, and higher one probably exist (submitted by Alvaro Orellana).

it's baaaack!!!!



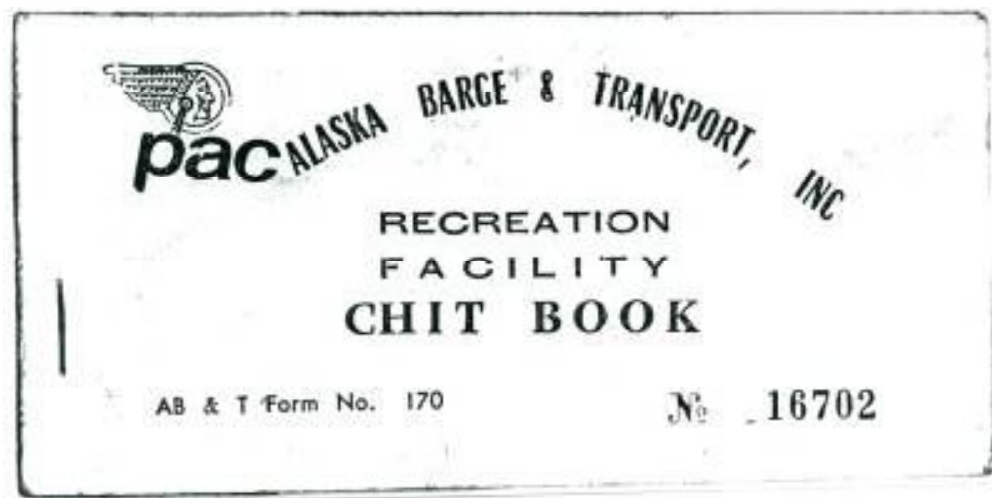
Once again, a Dexter Saloon token is offered on eBay. While the one we featured in our Nov. 2000 issue appeared to be white printing on the obverse, and black on the reverse, this appears to be etched into the surface. The seller's description is below:

"This is an ivory poker chip used during the Alaskan Gold rush. Circa 1875. The chip is believed to be made of Walrus tusk. On one side of the hexagon chip is printed, in gold letters, "Dexter Saloon", and "Nome" and "25". On the back is the number 25. The gold color of all the letters and numbers is faded. It is still gold in color but very faded. The chip measures 1-5/16" (ed. note - about 34mm) across. The chip is in good condition in that there are no cracks or chips in the ivory. As you can see the ivory has a well aged patina."

The seller did not do his homework. Nome was not founded until 1899. And, it looks like bone, not ivory (walrus tusk).

A suspicious item of which one must be aware. It appears that buyers were leery of this item as no bids at the opening bid of \$200 were received.

PAPER POTPOURRI



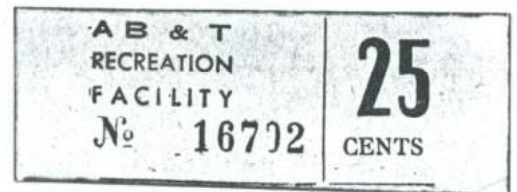
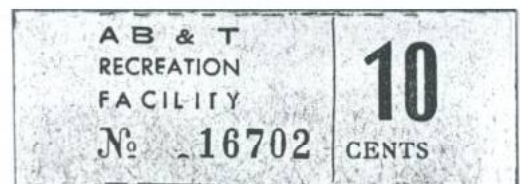
ALASKA BARGE & TRANSPORT, INC.: Chit Book with 5 (pink), 10 (green) and 25 Cents (yellow) chits (submitted by Joe Usibelli). An internet search shows that AB&T was active in the Viet Nam War.

“We proceeded to the Beaching area which was controlled by the US Army but actually operated by a Contractor - Alaska Barge & Transport. We remained here until the following day and then went upriver to Saigon” (http://www.geocities.com/araluen_99/steele.htm).

There is also a chapter from a book, “April Fools”, by George W. Schwarz Jr. that describes AB&T’s operations at Cam Ranh Bay, and makes reference to other locations: “In spite of this, none of us wished to transfer from Cam Ranh’s idyllic environment to any other AB&T in-country location.” (<http://www.readachapter.com/pdf/VietNamWar.pdf>).

Contact with the author brought this response: “With help from an AB&T veteran, the Chit Book copies are thought to have been used by the AB&T afterhours club in Nha Trang circa 1966-1967.”

Mr. Schwarz’s book is available on this page: <http://www.readachapter.com/moreinfo.cfm?keyword=VietNamWar>



PIONEER BATHS - (RUBY)

Henry Parker brought this piece in. It is aluminum, 25mm. He says it was found in Ruby, and the baths were just upriver from the town at the mouth of a creek. There were Pioneer “everything’s” in Alaska, and I was sure there was a Pioneer Baths in Fairbanks, but I have not found one.

FOR THE RECORD



(FAIRBANKS): Marvel Mobile Homes. Good for \$25 in trade on any Mobilhome Purchase. Black on wood.



ALASKA: Alaska Army National Guard, copper nickel, enameled red, white and blue.



FAIRBANKS: F.O.E. Eagles, \$1, 1989, gold on yellow poker chip, 39mm.



SPITZBERGEN: Arcticugol, 10 (Rubles?), 2001, proof issue, cupronickel, 30mm. Commemorates two disasters: the raising of the Kursk submarine, and the terrorism at the World Trade Center. Mintage reported to be 2,000 (from eBay). Another “non-circulating, non-legal tender” token?



GALENA: Archie's Yukon Inn, Good for one drink, two colors. Black on blue plastic and black on yellow plastic, 38mm. Archie Thurman died in a boating accident in the summer of 2001 (submitted by Henry Parker).

NEWFOUNDLAND: Come by Chance Refinery, Dedication, October 10, 1973, Newfoundland Refining Company Limited. Copper nickel. We believe that the illustration is actual size - 48mm. Don't really remember, as we grabbed this off eBay months ago!



KNIK: Knik Center, good for 65¢ drink. Black on white plastic, 28mm (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



MARCH SALES LIST



G.C.I. SILVER MEDALS: We picked up a quantity of these, with the exception of the medal in the second row, left (eagle flying to the left, Alaska on the border from 1:00 to 4:00). We only have one of these. So we offer the following:

One of each silver medal (3 total) - **\$35.00**
 Eagle in front of mountains or medal with
 "Alaska" at the top of the medal - **\$8.00 each**



PIONEERS OF ALASKA: 62nd Convention, Fairbanks, 1978. While not marked, this is a one ounce silver medal. Infrequently available. **\$18.00**

The brass mate, #1429 on our price list **\$6.00**



OUR PAST COMES BACK TO HAUNT US! We had these made back in 1984, and have been sold out for a number of years. We just purchased a small quantity of these, proving that modern medals are not an investment item. These are probably a very early if not first striking, as "Denali" is very nicely frosted. Issued at \$24.95. **\$12.00**



PAR 4 FAMILY FUN CENTER: While this establishment is no longer in business, but the equipment has been sold, and the tokens are being used again. Since my average plummets with the use of the pitching machines, I will not be using them before our annual religious pilgrimage to Phoenix. **Reduced - \$3.00**



BP EXPLORATION: Two medals with common "snowy owl" reverse. First is Western North Slope Asset. Map of Alaska surrounded by feathers (left). Second medal is "A force for good / Health, Safety, Environment." Both one ounce silver struck by the Alaska Mint. **\$22.00 each**